Listing of Claims

· This listing of claims replaces all prior listings (versions) of claims.

1. (Currently amended) A character recognition system, comprising:

an optical character reader system for collecting character data by electro-optically scanning printed characters;

a conversion system for converting the character data to a Magnetic Ink Character Recognition (MICR) format from a non-MICR format; and

a recognition engine for interpreting the converted character data using a MICR algorithm;

wherein the conversion system scales the character data to a pel density associated with a multigap MICR read head.

2. (Original) The character recognition system of claim 1, wherein the optical character reader system scans at a pel density in a range of approximately 200 to 600 dpi.

3. (Original) The character recognition system of claim 1, wherein the character data is stored in a grey scale image format.

4. (Cancelled).

5. (Currently amended) The character recognition system of claim 3 1, wherein the conversion system scales the character data to approximately 0.33 millimeters/pixel in a horizontal dimension and 0.43 millimeters/pixel in a vertical dimension.

10/081,417   3

6. (Original) The character recognition system of claim 3, wherein the conversion system converts the grey scale image format to a black and white image format.

7. (Original) The character recognition system of claim 1, wherein the printed characters are printed in an E13B font.

8. (Currently amended) A method for performing character recognition, comprising:

collecting character data by electro-optically scanning printed characters;

converting the character data to a Magnetic Ink Character Recognition (MICR) format from a non-MICR format; and

interpreting the converted character data using a MICR algorithm;

wherein the converting step scales the character data to a pel density associated with a multigap MICR read head.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the character data is scanned at a pel density in a range of approximately 200 to 600 dpi.

10. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the collection step stores the character data in a grey scale image format.

11. (Cancelled).

12. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the converting step scales the character data to approximately 0.33 millimeters/pixel in a horizontal dimension and 0.43 millimeters/pixel in a vertical dimension.

10/081,417   4

13. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the converting step converts the grey scale image format to a black and white image format.

14. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the printed characters are printed in an E13B font.

15. (Currently amended) A program product stored on a computer readable medium for performing character recognition, comprising:

    means for accessing character data collected by an electro-optical scanning system;

    means for converting the character data to a spatial resolution and density as if captured by a Magnetic Ink Character Recognition (MICR) read head; and

    means for interpreting the converted character data using a MICR algorithm;

    wherein the converting means scales the character data to a pel density associated with a multigap MICR read head.

16. (Original) The program product of claim 15, wherein the character data comprises a pel density in a range of approximately 200 to 600 dpi.

17. (Cancelled).

18. (Original) The program product of claim 15, wherein the converting means scales the character data to approximately 0.33 millimeters/pixel in a horizontal dimension and 0.43 millimeters/pixel in a vertical dimension.

19. (Original) The program product of claim 15, wherein the converting means converts a grey scale image format to a black and white image format.

10/081,417   5

20. (Original) The program product of claim 15, wherein the character data collected by the electro-optical scanning system comprises characters printed in an E13B font.

21. (Currently amended) A multi-voting character recognition engine for analyzing an inputted set of printed characters, comprising:

a plurality of character recognition systems, wherein each character recognition system independently analyzes the inputted set of printed characters, and wherein one of the character recognition systems includes:

an optical character reader system for collecting character data by electro-optically scanning printed characters;

a conversion system for converting the character data to a Magnetic Ink Character Recognition (MICR) format; ~~and~~

a recognition engine for interpreting the converted character data using a MICR algorithm; and

a voting system for combining results from each of the plurality of character recognition systems and determining a recognized set of characters;

<u>wherein the conversion system scales the character data to a pel density associated with a multigap MICR read head</u>.

22. (Original) The multi-voting character recognition engine of claim 21, wherein the inputted set of printed characters are printed in an E13B font.

10/081,417   6